

45. (Amended) An ignition coil for an engine comprising:
a central core assembly including a rod-shaped core, said central core assembly having two longitudinal ends and an edge at each said longitudinal end;
an insulating spool arranged around the core assembly, the spool being made of a resin material having a coefficient of thermal expansion different from a coefficient of thermal expansion of the core assembly;
a coil wound on the insulating spool; and
an elastic buffer member disposed between the central core assembly and the spool and covering at least one of said edges of said longitudinal ends of the central core assembly to thereby restrict a direct contact between said at least one longitudinal end corner of the central core assembly and the spool.

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

The applicant and the undersigned wish to thank Examiner Nguyen for the courtesies extended during the interview of October 2, 2002. The amendment discussed during the interview is presented above and the arguments made are presented herein for the record.

Claims 1-2 and 45-53 remain pending.

The Examiner refused to consider claims 45-53, alleging that they are directed to an invention that is independent or distinct from the invention originally claimed. Applicant respectfully disagrees and requests that claims 45-53 be considered on the merits. In response to the Examiner's restriction requirement in this case, applicants elected Species I, Figures 1-4. This embodiment provides a buffer/elastic member covering at least one of the edges of the longitudinal ends of the central core assembly. The buffer/elastic member restricts direct contact between the central core assembly